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# THE DAY BOOK

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## CITY BUILDING DEPARTMENT IN IGNORANCE OF DANGEROUS VIOLATIONS OF LAW

*Human Lives Sacrificed to Ericsson's Careless "Don't  
Know Anything About It"—Coroner Helps  
Keep Truth From Public.*

The most amazing conditions exist in the city building department today, conditions which no one in authority seems to give a hoot about.

Conditions, too, which, when they lead to loss of human life, are carefully suppressed at coroner's inquests.

John J. Lusch, a workman in the prime of life, was killed by a fall from an elevator in the Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co. store last Thursday.

At the inquest over Lusch's body conducted by Deputy Coroner Adolph Herrmann, the following facts were sworn to:

That there was a space of two feet between the edge of the elevator flooring and the basement platforms; a space of two feet over which everyone entering or leaving the elevator had to step, a space wide enough for a human body to fall through.

That the chain guard in front

of the elevator from which Lusch fell was only four feet high.

The Day Book went to the building department to find out how such conditions, endangering human life, were permitted.

The information desk of the building department referred the reporter to one Hoy, secretary to Building Commissioner Ericsson. Hoy was asked if there were any city regulations requiring that elevators should run flush with all four sides of the shaft.

"I can't tell you about that," said Hoy. "I'm not posted on that point. I'll take you to a man who can tell you all about it."

Hoy led the reporter to J. B. Taylor, chief elevator clerk, a gentleman who modestly admitted that he had "read" the city building laws through about 500 times.

Taylor did not at first answer the question as to what city regulation there might be. He said;